

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1, as follows:

The invention relates to apparatuses and methods for producing items, particularly for example for compression moulding items made of plastics, such as caps for bottles and containers. The invention further relates to an item made of plastic materials.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 22, as follows:

A defect of the apparatus disclosed in US 4943405 is that a complicated structure is disclosed, which requires that the intermediate support be associated to an actuating means device capable of functioning into the narrow region of the cavity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3 line 27, as follows:

According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a mould cavity movable between an open position in which said punch and said mould cavity are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said mould cavity interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement extending externally of said mould cavity for supporting said dose between said punch and said mould cavity in said open position and oscillatable by a movable cam means arrangement.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4 line 15, as follows:

According to a fourth aspect of the invention, there is provided an apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a mould cavity movable along an axis between an open position in which said punch and said mould cavity are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said mould cavity interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement for

supporting said dose between said punch and said mould cavity and having a member oscillatable ~~parallelly~~ to said axis.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4 line 25, as follows:

According to a fifth aspect of the invention, there is provided an apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a mould cavity movable between an open position in which said punch and said mould cavity are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said mould cavity interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement for supporting said dose between said punch and said mould cavity and oscillatable by a gear meansdevice.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6 line 16, as follows:

Owing to this aspect of the invention, it is no longer necessary to provide a rotatable pan, or another transport meansarrangement, to transfer the dose of plastics from the extruder to the mould cavity. Construction of the machine is therefore significantly simplified.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7 line 28, as follows:

According to a thirteenth aspect of the invention, there is provided an apparatus comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a mould cavity one of which serving as a receiving member for receiving a dose of plastics in an open position, said moulding unit being movable along a path between said open position and a closed position in which said punch and said mould cavity interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a channel means-system being provided to surround said receiving member in said open position along said path.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8 line 3, as follows:

In one embodiment, a transferring device means is provided for transferring said dose from an extruder mouth to said moulding unit along a further path, said transferring device means being surrounded by a channel system means extending along said further path.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8 line 7, as follows:

Owing to this aspect of the invention, it is possible to introduce a conditioning fluid into said channel system means so as to keep said dose in a desired environment.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10 line 3, as follows:

Figure 19 is a plan view of supporting members actuated by a gear device means;

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21 line 22, as follows:

In the embodiment shown in Figure 19, the rods 111 are actuated by a gear device means including a sector gear 38 integral with the connecting device 32. As the carousel 2 rotates around the axis A, the sector gear 38 cyclically interacts with a further sector gear 39 arranged in a fixed position on the apparatus 1. The sector gear 38, when matching the further sector gear 39, moves the rods 111 between the dose-receiving configuration shown in Figure 19 and the dose-delivering configuration.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21 line 30, as follows:

It is stressed that the gear device means disclosed in connection with Figure 19 can be used in combination with any mutual arrangement of the punch and mould cavity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22 line 24, as follows:

In the embodiment shown in Figures 25 and 26, a transferring wheel 140, rotatable about an inclined axis Z1, is used to transfer a dose D1 of plastics from an extrusion device 142 to a cap 43. The dose D1 inside the cap 43 is then formed by a forming device means not shown so as

to obtain a sealing element in the cap 43. The sealing element avoids loss of content from the container or bottle closed by the cap 43.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27 line 8, as follows:

It is to be understood that in the above description the mould cavities and/or the punches may be driven by any suitable driving arrangementmeans, such as pneumatic and/or hydraulic cylinders, or electro-magnetic linear actuators.